



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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**DOH ISSUES SMOKE AND DUST ADVISORY DUE
TO ISLE BRUSH FIRES**

HONOLULU--Recent brush fires on the islands of O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i have exposed large acreage of land, which could result in increased levels of dust, smoke, and ash in these and surrounding areas, especially during high winds. The Hawai'i State Department of Health, Clean Air Branch is advising residents and visitors in these areas, especially those who suffer from a respiratory or chronic breathing problem such as asthma, bronchitis or emphysema, to take certain precautionary measures or even leave the area until the fire is contained and the smoke subsides.

The American Lung Association suggests the following to relieve discomfort for the public -- including healthy individuals -- who are exposed to heavy dust, brush fire smoke, fireworks smoke, or volcanic haze.

- Stay indoors and use an air conditioner, if available.
- Limit physical exertion.
- Drink plenty of fluids to loosen mucus. Warm beverages tend to work best.
- If you have medications, make sure you have an adequate supply and keep them readily available in a convenient place. It is important to take your medication. Call your physician if you need more medication.
- Call your physician for clear instructions on what to do if your lung condition suddenly worsens or as soon as any problem occurs.
- Do not smoke and avoid second-hand smoke.

(more)

For further information regarding air quality, contact the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Clean Air Branch at (808) 586-4200. To obtain additional information on respiratory health, contact your personal physician or the American Lung Association of Hawai'i at (808) 537-5966,

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For more information, contact:

Lisa Young
Department of Health
Clean Air Branch
Phone: (808) 5864200

Rien Vidad
American Lung Association
Phone: (808) 537-5966, Ext. 213